The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Nature never says one thing; wisdom another.—Juvenal.

WHOLE NO. 1026. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 39.

SINISTER IDLE FIGURES PUBLISHED BY GREEN

Washington, Dec. 6.—"Unemployment is already as high as in the worst month last winter," said William Green, president A. F. of L., in commenting on unemployment figures reported by trade unions in 24 cities.

"More union members were out of work in the first three weeks of November than in October, and the percentage rose from 21 per cent unemployed in October to 22 per cent. in November," said Mr. Green. "Part time is also increasing," he said. "In October, 15 per cent of our membership were working part time, and in November 18 per cent.

"This year we enter the winter months with an unemployment crisis already on our hands. We should take this winter increase as warning that relief measures must be speeded and the utmost possible done to hasten the work of relief and prevention already begun.

"Unemployment increased as much as usual in November. If it continues to increase at the usual rate we shall have 50 per cent more out of work by February than we have.

"Our figures show that even now 40 per cent of our union membership are forced to lower standards of living because their incomes are reduced by unemployment and part-time work. This represents also a huge loss in buying power which might be stimulating production and help get business forward.

"Any concern which lost 40 per cent of its customers would consider the problem grave, indeed. Yet this is just what is happening on a wide scale the country over. These losses keep us in depression and delay business recovery.

"Our report for cities shows that increasing unemployment was general in November throughout the country."

President Green states that preliminary estimates for November show 4,860,000 unemployed. This is a gain from 4,500,000 in the previous month. These figures do not include farm laborers or office workers.

President Green said this estimate is based on trade union reports and all other available statistical information on employment from the Departments of Labor and Commerce, the Interstate Commerce Commission and other authoritative sources.

POSTAL RATE RISE FACES ROCKY ROAD

Washington, Dec. 6.—Postmaster General Brown faces a hard fight with Congress to raise the postage rate on first-class mail from 2 to 2½ cents an ounce. This increase would mean an additional $75,000,000 a year.

The scheme is so unpopular Mr. Brown, at this writing, cannot find a member of his party in Congress who will sponsor the bill.

The present rate of 2 cents an ounce has been in effect since 1883, except two years during the World War.

The Postmaster General insists that his department be placed "on a paying basis," but opponents of the postal rise claim that the Postoffice is on a paying basis but for the many social services and subsidies that are charged against it.

American ships that sail to every port in the world, for instance, are given large subsidies for carrying mail. The purpose of this subsidy is "to build up an American merchant marine." The cost, however, is placed on the Postoffice Department, which is no more reasonable than if it were placed on the Department of Agriculture. The same policy is applied in the development of airplanes, which are necessary for public defense and the basis for carrying air mail call for-charges in excess of airplane receipts, but the Postoffice Department is called upon to carry this loss, rather than the government as a whole. The rural free delivery is operated at a loss of millions of dollars annually, but no one has ever suggested that this service be abandoned.

These costs naturally create deficits that are ignored by officials who plead for a "business administration" of the department.

$25 WOMEN'S MINIMUM FAVORED BY OFFICIAL

Washington, Dec. 6.—A weekly minimum of $25 for working women is urged by Miss Mary Anderson, director United States Women's Bureau.

"Such a wage would be one of the greatest boons to the elimination of unemployment, inefficiency and poverty," said Miss Anderson.

"One of the inquiries made by many establishments of applicants is whether they live at home. Many assert of Miss Anderson. "It is tacitly understood by some firms that lower wages go to those who live at home. Such wages are paid many store clerks are below decent living standards. Were they not able to pool their resources with those of others in their families at home, their living conditions would be pathetic."

IDLENESS IN OMAHA DESPITE POLLYANNAS

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 6.—Apple sauce and Pollyannas can not cure our business depression, declare a committee of the local Central Labor Union who warn the country against prosperity yarns that are being issued from this city.

"The trade unionists are co-operating with social agencies to furnish food and temporary shelter for workers who have been lured to this city by the Pollyanna prosperity pealmists.

MILL BARONS PLAY USUAL DESPERATE GAME

Nearly 1,000 soldiers are in Danville, where 4,500 textile workers are striking for the right to organize and against wage cuts and speed-up systems.

The governor of Virginia was snubbed when he asked the mill management to arbitrate differences. "We have nothing to arbitrate" replied the industrial oligarchs.

The strike has been on for two months, with the workers as determined as ever.

The usual has happened. A "riot" was staged by unknown parties. The unionists insist that the "rioters" were Communists and strikebreakers.

The sheriff called for troops and the governor rushed several hundred soldiers to the aid of mill managers who "have nothing to arbitrate."

The purpose of the militia was quickly evident. Their first move was to drive pickets from the streets and smash tents and wind shelters used by the pickets. The governor, later, modified the picket order, following angry protests by the workers.

There is one soldier in Danville for every four strikers. The soldiers are equipped with rifles, bayonets, gas bombs and machine guns. Opposing them are hungry strikers who plead that the dispute may be arbitrated, and who point to their nine-weeks of law observance under the most trying circumstances.

The soldiers are enforcing a "law and order" standard that is favored by those who placed them in Danville—industrial oligarchs and their political agents.

This "law and order" means that the rights of strikers shall be ignored and that they must be driven back to wage cuts, speed-ups and the mill-controlled "union."

Mill managers, who "have nothing to arbitrate," only know this brand of "law and order." It is their ideal of government.

The militia invasion in Danville will be an additional cost to taxpayers, but industrial oligarchs and their political agents will consider this a good investment if their ideal of "law and order" prevails—if the Textile Workers' Union is smashed and if wage cuts and speed-ups are enforced.

This brand of "law and order" is the price a negligent society must pay.

Organized labor will eventually create a social consciousness that will not permit the state militia to be used as pawns by employers who refuse to arbitrate attempts to lower living standards and who deny workers the right to organize.

There will come a time when employers must publicly defend such unsocial acts.

They will fail to conceal their purpose by fomenting riot and then have troops drive pickets off the streets to maintain their system of "law and order."

DANVILLE STRIKERS FACING TROOPS WHO WOULD SMASH PICKETING LINES

Danville, Va., Dec. 6.—Union smashers in this city finally won their objective and several hundred Virginia militia are camped here on order of Governor Pollard.

The usual "lawlessness" was staged as a preliminary to the call for troops. Stones were thrown at a house by unknown parties and pistols were fired into the air. The governor ordered out troops at the request of Sheriff Murphy.

The militia are supposed to maintain law, but practically every move made by the soldiers is against the strikers and helpful to the mill management. Picket lines were smashed, as were wind breaks erected by the pickets to protect them against wintry blasts.

Trade unionists are asking if certain city and county authorities are not in sympathy with the mill management's policy when they cooperate with troops and smash the strike by declaring martial law. In support of this view, the unionists point to a significant statement by Dr. L. C. Womack, member of the finance board of the board of supervisors of this county.

"Commonwealth Attorney Hundley was authorized to organize a county police force November 5," said Dr. Womack, who declared that this program never was followed, "and that everything went wrong."

"It looks as though the city police and the State highway police also fell down when it came to co-operation with the less experienced county officers," said Dr. Womack.

RACKETEERS' VOICE HEARD IN LAW BODIES

Chicago, Dec. 6.—"The racketeer, the money element in crime, is linked up with official posts to a greater extent than the public realizes," said Judge John H. Lyle in an address at Temple Sholom.

The jurist cited how Chicago's best known "racketeer and gangster manipulated important State offices to suit his purposes.

"If you doubt the political sway of this man," said Judge Lyle, who has directed the recent activities against gangsters, "let me inform you at the last election he elected a State senator to protect his interests at the capital of this State. This newly-elected State senator has been in my court room time after time in behalf of gangsters in police court.

"This racketeer also sent to the legislature another man, a young attorney, who has defended his gang members on several occasions.

"This racketeer also has in the city council an alderman completely under his direction, and who will 'front' for him 'and the boys' in case anything affecting them comes before the council. Furthermore, this racketeer elected a Congressman. Do you suppose that, with these men in a position to be of the greatest use to the racketeer, he does not wield vast political influence?"

Judge Lyle intimated that this political influence may have thwarted the efforts of 5,000 police and more than 1,000 assistant attaches from driving "these bands of skulking midnight murderers from the city." Judge Lyle, however, expressed the opinion that progress is being made in that direction.

UTAH WAGE STATUTE VIOLATED BY BOSSES

Salt Lake City, Dec. 6.—"Wages are being ground to the lowest possible level," said W. L. Piggott, State wage collector, in discussing the futility of the present Utah wage collection law.

"Wages are as low as $2 a day," said the State official. "The wage collection law is so grossly and persistently violated that prevention should be provided.

"A goodly number of employers take advantage of the unemployment situation to force unjust agreements upon employes, even requiring them to take half of much less than scale wages in their corporations, much of which has no present value and may never have."

Employers, under the law, have a free hand in filching wages from workers, according to Mr. Piggott. A joker provides that the act shall not apply in cases "where an agreement exists between employer and employe providing different terms of pay."

MOTHER JONES DIES; WAS 100 YEARS OLD

Washington, Dec. 6.—"Mother" Jones, 100-year-old friend of wage workers, and especially of miners, quietly passed away Sunday, November 30, at the home of a friend with whom she had been living for more than two years in a suburb of this city.

"Mother" Jones was buried at Mount Olive, Ill., beside "her boys," who were shot to death by deputy sheriffs at the Virden coal strike in 1898. Rev. J. W. Maguire, president St. Viator's College, Illinois, who addressed A. F. of L. conventions at New Orleans and Boston, spoke at the Mount Olive services. "Mother" Jones' last journey from Washington was in one of the finest special cars of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which was placed at the disposal of her friends by President Daniel Willard.

"Mother" Jones left no family connections. Her last relative, a brother, was a Catholic priest and educator in Canada, who died in 1923. She named as her executors John Fitzpatrick, president, and Edward Nockels, secretary Chicago Federation of Labor. She left $6,000, which she secured from the sale of her story of the labor movement she wrote just before her fatal illness. She instructed Fitzpatrick and Nockels to invest the sum out of this money and use the balance for the good of the labor movement in any way they see fit.

Rev. Fr. Maguire came from his Illinois college to attend the services in Washington and Rev. Fr. Cox attended by President Green, Secretary Frank Morrison, Secretary of Labor Doak and others.

Mr. Nockels, who is in Washington in connection with legislation for labor's broadcast speech, left Chicago, took charge of the funeral arrangements and was one of a group who journeyed to Mount Olive, Ill.

Accompanying the remains to Illinois were many floral pieces, including one from the A. F. of L. executive council and one from President Green, who, as a member of the United Mine Workers, was associated with "Mother" Jones in many industrial struggles.

"During the entire lifetime of 'Mother' Jones," said President Green, "she has been in the forefront of labor's struggles. Her life was an inspiring men and women to fight for the cause of organized labor. The loss can not be measured."

LOAN FUNDS FOR IDLE URGED BY GOVERNOR

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 6.—Loan funds to sustain unemployed or those whose incomes have been impaired, is favored by Governor Roosevelt. The loan funds would be under local management.

The governor also stated that he will ask the State Legislature to make a permanent commission of the present committee on stabilization of employment. The governor will invite the governors of neighboring States to join with him in the consideration of methods of preventing a recurrence of an unemployment situation similar to the present one.

BAKERY WORKERS GAIN

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 6.—Organized bakery workers continue making gains. The latest additions include former non-union bakeries.

World War Upset Old Theory; Triumph Is Empty For Victors

New York, Dec. 6.—Norman Angell, Labor member British Parliament, who won fame with the theme that victors profit from an economic standpoint over their foes.

In a cross-coast radio talk, the Britisher said: "You can not take a nation's trade and commerce if you defeat that nation in the World War.

"If this could be done, I am afraid we would be doing it," he said. "We have lost our victory over Germany, our greatest commercial rival, and according to the theory of some she should be at our commercial mercy, but it ought to be possible to use that position to take her foreign trade, to compel her to pay her debts, to reduce our taxation. But if that is true why have we got two and a quarter million unemployed and the heaviest tax in the world?

"Why have we surrendered every hope of getting payment from Germany beyond what we pass on to others. As a matter of fact, we still have German competition in every corner of the world. Why do we, after the greatest victory in history, meet an economic crisis greater than any we had since the industrial revolution, beginning with the installation of steam?

"To those learned people who write books to prove that war between Britain and America is inevitable, because they are commercial rivals or because this country wants to get rid of its paying debts, I would put a very simple question. Our victory over Germany is, from an economic point of view, utterly useless, as has been proved. Why should we want to repeat it in the case of America?

Mr. Angell said that changes inside the British system of government, and which has destroyed "the Liberal foundland, the Irish Free State are no longer subject to central imperial government, but have become in fact independent states in loose alliance with what used to be the mother country. I hope that tomorrow the same will be true of India."

A. F. OF L. SPEAKS FOR WORKERS

The A. F. of L. is spokesman for the Nation's wage earners. No other organization has even questioned its supremacy. It has supplied the leadership, the driving force, the militancy, in every advance workers have made the last 50 years.

We have a better Nation because the A. F. of L. has lived. In great crises this is acknowledged by our opponents and critics. They then concede that the A. F. of L. is spokesman for American wage earners.

But in normal times we must not enlarge our intelligence and capacity by urging appointment of an A. F. of L. member to a high office that was created through the energy of the A. F. of L., and for the purpose of benefiting the workers of our land.

The A. F. of L. is not an imitation trade union. It is not a fraternal organization. It is not favored by those who grandiloquently talk of equality for all persons to secure government positions, and who would create the impression that the A. F. of L. is merely interested in securing a job for some trade unionist.

This element charges President Green with attempting to "force" an A. F. of L. member as Secretary of Labor.

If by "force" is meant reasons why an A. F. of L. member should hold this position, President Green will have to plead guilty.

This "force"—this reasoning—is ignored by persons who infer that President Green has made threats, but who accept without question the secret and honey-worded commands of privilege.

STANDARD OILS SET NEW DIVIDEND MARK

New York, Dec. 6.—Standard Oil stockholders are not affected by the business depression, as this year they will receive $286,666,728 in cash dividends. This is an increase of $17,020,801 over 1929.

Dividends by Standard Oil of New Jersey this year will exceed $50,000,000. This is the largest ever paid from earnings by any unit of the group in a single year.

When Standard Oil Company of New Jersey (original trust) was dissolved by the United States Supreme Court, several years ago, the stock of that concern had a market value of $400,000,000. The old Standard was divided into State organizations, and total dividends this year come within approximately $114,000,000 of the total stock market value of all these companies when they were in one organization.

"It has been estimated," says the Wall Street Journal, "that Standard Oil of New Jersey shares on May 1 are selling at prices equal to around $4,000 a share on the old stock, just 900 per cent more than the old was selling for at the time of dissolution."

YOUTHFUL EMPLOYES INJURED IN INDUSTRY

Washington, Dec. 6.—Machinery is responsible for more industrial accidents, proportionally, to boys and girls than to men and women, according to the United States Women's Bureau.

Many accidents to women happened to girls under 21, a much larger proportion of women than men being in this group. Young women were found to be permanently disabled more often than were older women.

The bureau states that laws prohibiting employment of boys and girls under 16 in dangerous occupations should include all minors under 21, since young workers in general are likely to be more careless and venturesome than are adults.

NEW JERSEY WORKERS MAY LABOR OVERTIME

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 6.—Shop employes of the State Highway Department may work more than eight hours a day, according to a fine-spun decision by the State Civil Service Commission.

10-HOUR DAY ON ROADS

Ames, Iowa, Dec. 6.—The 10-hour day and the 60-hour week for road paving crews is recognized by the Iowa State Highway Commission. The commission "frowns on," but does not prohibit, Sunday work. A minimum wage of 40 cents an hour will be paid.

RICH SOCIETY LADIES CAN CUT UNEMPLOYED

New York, Dec. 6.—If wealthy society ladies are desirous of relieving the unemployed, let them notify fashionable Fifth Avenue dressmaking shops to end that strike.

This suggestion is made by Justice, official magazine International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

"Employers demand the right to arbitrarily discharge workers and deny review of their action by an impartial body. The employers also demand wage reductions and lower work standards. Every effort of the union to compose differences has been rejected.

"The object of the employers was none other than to abolish union conditions" says Justice, which suggests that the situation presents an opportunity for society women to make good their professed interest in the unemployed.

"If the wealthy ladies who patronize the Fifth Avenue shops wish to do something praiseworthy, now is their opportunity," says the labor publication. "All they need do is to have members of the Couturiers' Association understand that they will not deal with persons who can be so brutally unfair to employes, and that they will not wear garments made by scabs."

A group of 50 prominent men and women organized the Citizens' Emergency Committee to aid the striking tailors.

Condemning what they term "a policy of industrial ruthlessness at a time when every effort of the community is bent to prevent unemployment," the emergency committee called upon public-spirited citizens "to join us in giving the strikers possible support, and financial, to striking tailors and dressmakers in their effort to maintain an American standard of living. The right of collective bargaining and a system of orderly relations in the industry."

BOSSES OUTSMARTED IN SHORT-WEEK FIGHT

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 6.—Reactionary employers in control of the Mayor's Unemployment Committee were outsmarted on the question of a shorter work week.

A sub-committee controlled by these employers has been toying with a five-day week resolution and the main committee passed a resolution for a 30-hour week. The bosses are now in a position where they oppose the five-day week, but voted for 30 hours.

Trade unionists, however, have no illusions that the 30-hour plan means anything unless backed by the workers' solidarity.

Doak Is Secretary Of Labor, Green Protests New System

Washington, Dec. 6.—The President appointed William N. Doak to succeed James J. Davis as Secretary of Labor. The latter stepped from the cabinet position to the United States Senate, where he was elected from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Doak is editor of the Railroad Trainman, official magazine Order of Railroad Trainmen. Prior to his editorship he occupied various position in his organization.

When the appointment was made President Green issued this statement:

"The President of the United States has seen fit to select a Secretary of Labor outside the recognized American labor movement. The right of the President to select the members of his cabinet is freely recognized by all classes of people, regardless of political or economic affiliations. President Wilson selected the first Secretary of Labor from the A. F. of L. His successors—President Harding and President Coolidge—did likewise.

"The officers and members of the A. F. of L. have always believed that the Secretary of Labor, sitting in the President's cabinet, should come from the A. F. of L.

"The A. F. of L. is regarded as the American labor movement, speaking for American labor, representing American labor. The officers and members of this organization believe that the Secretary of Labor, sitting in the President's cabinet, should be a man who understands the American labor movement, its problems and the thought and mind of American labor. We have always held that the Department of Labor should be the instrumentality through which labor could express its mind and judgment upon economic and industrial problems affecting the well being of working men and women through a Secretary of Labor to the President of the United States and his cabinet.

"It is a strong reason why we earnestly urged the President to select a Secretary of Labor from the membership of the A. F. of L. There are many men connected with the A. F. of L. who meet all the political and economic requirements necessary to serve as Secretary of Labor.

"Why some one outside the A. F. of L. has been selected the position that can not be answered by labor and one which is difficult to understand. The officers and members of the A. F. of L., myself included, are keenly disappointed because the President failed to give the A. F. of L. recognition in the selection of a

MILL STRIKERS SCORE DANVILLE SHOP OWNERS

Danville, Va., Dec. 6.—Small shop keepers and traders are being roundly denounced by organized textile workers who are criticized for daring to suspend work and who, the business men say, are being led by "foreign agitators."

The shop keepers expressed these views in their various trade organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants' Association and the Tobacco Board of Trade.

These organizations jump, as usual, when the unseen hand pulls the string. They uphold the presence of soldiers and the importation of thugs and strikebreakers.

The unionists remind the traders that when peace eventually reigns, and workers again secure purchasing power, they will not spend their money with those who are supporting the 'mill management in an attempt to smash the Textile Workers' Union and enforce wage reductions and speed-ups.

CONGRESS CONVENES FOR SHORT SESSION

Washington, Dec. 6.—The final session of the Seventy-first Congress convened Monday, December 1. It will adjourn by constitutional limitation on March 4 next.

In his message to Congress, President Hoover recommends an additional $100,000,000 or $150,000,000 for construction work to relieve unemployment. He indicates that unemployment is likely to exceed 2,500,000.

This so-called "short" session is devoted largely to the consideration of appropriation bills that will finance operation of the government during the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Unemployment and various relief proposals will be considered. These include Wagner bills, which passed the last Senate, but failed in the House.

Labor's anti-injunction bill will be urged by organized workers and sympathizers. Efforts will be made to suppress differences over Muscle Shoals—the Senate having passed the Norris bill for government operation, and the House favors a bill that calls for private exploitation.

The Norris "lame duck" amendment to the Constitution will also be considered.

Conservative interests in both parties join with the Administration in opposing a special session of the new Congress, which would be called after March 4, when the present Congress adjourns. Sentiment for the extra meeting will increase or decline in proportion to the way that pending legislation is disposed of.

JOB HUNTING ALIEN OPPOSED BY DAVIS

Washington, Dec. 6.—Rigid exclusion of all immigrants is recommended by Secretary of Labor Davis in a report that closed ten years of service in that position.

The secretary urged that no new and unattached immigrants coming for the purpose of seeking employment should be admitted to the country unless it has been previously determined by the Department of Labor that there existed an actual need for the kind of service they are qualified to give.

"It would apply this rule to all immigration," said the secretary, "whether it be subject to quota limit control, as in the case of natives of European countries, or outside such control, as is the case with natives of New World countries.

"I would exempt from this plan of control immigrants coming to join near relatives already in the United States. I always have advocated liberality in the matter of reuniting families and my attitude has not changed in that respect."

NON-RESISTANT PLAN ADMIRED FROM AFAR

New York, Dec. 6.—"Why admire Gandhi at a distance when men and women are making every effort at non-resistance in a critical situation in the United States?" asks Dr. Alva W. Taylor, in presenting to churchmen the cause of Danville strikers.

Dr. Taylor is chairman of the Church Emergency Committee for Relief of these textile strikers, and he is appealing to church members to cease glorifying Gandhi's policy in faraway India, while ignoring a similar movement in their own country.

Dr. Taylor's committee refers to this comment by Rev. James Myers, secretary of the committee and active in the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ, who has made first-hand investigations in Danville:

"A remarkable demonstration of peaceful picketing by the strikers, who are the finest type of reliable citizens and church folks. They are, however, determined to stand out for their rights to the last ditch.

"At this advanced stage of the strike, a real danger that the pressure of hunger, privation and sickness might result in despair and the possible violence and bloodshed which always constitute a danger under such extreme circumstances.

"A reliable and systematic handling of relief by the union commissary, although funds have been low. The meagerness of diet (flour, fatback, beans, etc.) will tend to undermine health and the spread of pellagra. Nearly 15,000 people, including wives and children, depend on this commissary for daily food."

SECOND PARDON PLEA IS LOST BY BILLINGS

San Francisco, Dec. 6.—The California Supreme Court, for the second time this year, refused to recommend a pardon for Warren K. Billings, serving a life sentence with Thomas J. Mooney, for bombing a Preparedness parade here in 1916, killing 10 persons and injuring 40.

The decision affects Mooney, as Governor Young has stated that in all probability he will be guided by the court's action on the Billings' plea.

Under the California law, Billings, who had formerly been convicted of a crime, must have his pardon plea approved by the State Supreme Court. There is no limitation on the governor in the case of Mooney, but the governor has joined the two pardon requests.

The Supreme Court, in refusing Billings' plea, indicated that men were not constitutionally tried, the "frame-up" charges would be sustained by the California court.

STATES ARE BACKWARD IN VOTING ROAD FUNDS

Washington, Dec. 6.—There is $162,000,000 in the United States Treasury that can be released by State action.

This money is for road construction. To be available to a State the amount must be duplicated by such State.

Colonel Arthur Woods, chairman of the President's committee for employment, called attention to this idle money that can be put into circulation.

CITIES ARE URGED TO REBUILD SLUMS

New York, Dec. 6.—The immediate rebuilding and modernizing of slums and tenement districts is urged by the American Construction Council in letters to all governors and to mayors of cities with a population of 100,000 or over.